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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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ACCESSIBILITY TO MONG HSAT (20-32N, 99-16E)
(Background Information)

Mong Hsat is isolated in the rugged mountain area of the southern Shan States, not far from the Thai border. It is most accessible by air from either Bangkok or Chiang Mai. The sod air strip there was constructed by the Chinese Nationalists in 1950. It is reportedly 3,400 feet long and has been used by both PBV's and C-47's. The strip can be used all year as this part of Burma sustains an annual rainfall of only 45 inches, although cloudy conditions during the rains (mid-May to mid-October) makes flying difficult at times.

The general mode of travel in the area around Mong Hsat is by foot or by horse, and the transportation of supplies is accomplished by pack animal. The Nationalists have used two overland routes to bring men and supplies from Thailand to Mong Hsat, both of which originate in Chiang Mai. One is up the all-weather highway to Chiang Dao thence westward to the border and northward to Mong Hang. This part of the trip can be managed by vehicle, although the rains will seriously handicap movements off the main highway. The journey from Mong Hang to Mong Hsat can be made only on horseback and requires about three days. The other route is the same except that vehicles proceed farther north along the highway to Mong Fang and then turn west to Mong Hang. The Nationalists could also come out of Burma by marching eastward until they reached the Kengtung-Chiang Rai highway, which is also an all-weather road.

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